

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01

PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 FEA-01

SAM-01 /149 W

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R 261551Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9166

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 1429

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PFOR, US, LI

SUBJECT: MULITLATERAL AFFAIRS: MULTILATERAL INFORMATION ON HOST
GOVERNMENT

REF: STATE 37591

1. SUMMARY: SET FORTH BELOW ARE THIS EMBASSY'S RESPONSES TO THE
QUESTIONS LISTED IN PARA 7 REFTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. PARAGRAPHS BELOW ARE ALPHABETIZED AND KEYED TO QUESTIONS RAISED
IN PARA 7, REFTEL.

A. SPECIFICS OF GOL'S MILITLATERAL FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS TEND
TO DEVELOP AND/OR EMERGE ONLY WHEN A SPECIFIC ISSUE ARISES IN
INTERNATIONAL FORA. MOST IMMEDIATE MULITLATERAL CONCERNS ARE
THOSE AFFECTING AFRICA, PARTICULARLY OAU MEMBERS OR POTENTIAL
MEMBERS. DEVELOPMENTS IN NANIBIA, ZIMBABWE, AFFARS AND ISSAS,
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SPANISH SAHARA, SOMALI-ETHIOPIA DISPUTE AND KENYA-UGANDA DISPUTE,

IF AND AS THEY ARE INTERNATIONALIZED, WILL ATTRACT GOL'S ATTENTION. NEXT WOULD BE NONAFRICAN THIRD WORLD MATTERS. AS FOR MULTILATERAL BODIES, GOL'S MOST RECENT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST HAVE BEEN FOR A SEAT ON THE IMCO BOARD AND THE WORLD COURT. GOL CAN ALSO BE EXPECTED DESIRE OFFICIAL POSITIONS IN OUA, NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND UNCTAD GROUPS, OR ANY GROUP DEALING WITH PRIMARY PRODUCTS (PARTICULARLY IRON ORE, RUBBER, TIMBER AND EDIBLE TREE CROPS) AS WELL AS MARITIME AFFAIRS.

B. GOL VERY SELDOM TAKES LEAD IN MULTILATERAL MATTERS UNLESS THEY HAVE A DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON LIBERIA (ECONOMIC MATTERS INCLUDING LIBERIAN PRODUCTS OR COMMERCE BEING THE MOST LIKELY CATEGORY IN WHICH GOL MIGHT TAKE LEAD). ORDINARILY, GOL TESTS THE INTERNATIONAL WINDS BEFORE ANNOUNCING OR TAKING A STAND. ON OAU MATTERS GOL CAN BE EXPECTED TO ULTIMATELY END UP WITH THE MAJORITY. ON OTHER THIRD WORLD ISSUES GOL WILL TEND TO SIDE WITH MAJORITY. HOWEVER, ON NON-AFRICAN THIRD WORLD ISSUES, USG IS OFTEN ABLE TO PERSUADE GOL TO SEE THINGS OUR WAY OR, AT WORST, NOT TO OPPOSE US. GOL CONSULTS FREQUENTLY AND INFORMALLY WITH IVORY COAST, SIERRA LEONE, SENEGAL AND TO A LESSER EXTENT WITH GUINEA AND NIGERIA. GOL IS INFLUENCED TO VARYING DEGREES, DEPENDING ON THE ISSUE AT HAND, BY ALL FIVE AND APPEARS TO EXERT CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON THE FORMER THREE. PRESIDENT TOLBERT SEES HIMSELF AS A PEACE-MAKER AND ARBITER. HE HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS ATTEMPTED AND/OR OFFERED TO ARBITRATE INTRA-AFRICAN DISPUTES AND/OR SERVE AS A CHANNEL FOR SUCH. HE FREQUENTLY DISPATCHES HIS FOREIGN MINISTER ON USUALLY UNANNOUNCED FLYING TRIPS SEEKING TO HELP MODERATE OR DEFUSE INTRA-AFRICAN PROBLEMS.

C. INSTRUCTIONS TO DELS VARY WITH LEVEL OF REAL INTEREST TO GOL. IF ISSUES ARE OF SUBSTANTIVE IMPORTANCE TO GOL DELEGATES ARE WELL-INSTRUCTED AND KEPT IN LINE (RECENTLY AN AMBASSADOR WAS SUMMARILY FIRED BY PRESIDENT FOR FAILING TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS). IF FOREIGN MINISTER HEADS DEL, HE MAKES MANY DECISIONS IN SITU. IF ISSUES ARE OF MARGINAL INTEREST TO GOL, DELS LIKELY BE MARGINALLY INSTRUCTED WITH FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS BEING DEPENDENT UPON AMOUNT AND SOURCES OF PRESSURES PUT ON GOL BY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

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D. NO HOST COUNTRY PERMREPS OR HEADS OF DELEGATIONS HAVE ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL INDEPENDENT POLITICAL POWER WHICH MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR GOL TO CONTROL OR INSTRUCT THEM. ON OCCASION PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE OF THE SENATE (PRESIDENT'S BROTHER) OR CHAIRMAN OF HOUSE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE (PRESIDENT'S SON) MAY HEAD AN AD HOC DELEGATION. EITHER COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS, BUT NEITHER IS LIKELY TO HEAD A DELEGATION OF SUBSTANTIVE IMPORT-

ANCE TO GOL OR USG.

E. GOL IS RECEPTIVE TO USG APPROACHES ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES AND, THUS FAR, HAS ACCEPTED THE BILATERAL IMPLICATIONS THEREOF. NEVERTHELESS, IT CONTINUES TO STATE THAT IT WILL CONSIDER MULTILATERAL ISSUES IN THE LIGHT OF THE GOL'S PERCEPTION OF ITS NATIONAL INTEREST AND, WHEN ITS PERCEPTION OF THE DESIRED COURSE OF ACTION VARIES FROM USG'S, GOL WILL EXPECT USG TO UNDERSTAND AND AND APPRECIATE GOL'S POINT OF VIEW. GOL DOES SOLICIT USG SUPPORT THROUGH EMBASSY ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES (RECENT EXAMPLES BEING IMCO BOARD AND WORLD COURT CANDIDACIES) BUT IT ALSO LOBBIES IN INTERNATIONAL ORGS (E.G. OAU, NAC).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, REPORTS, COUNTRY INFORMATION PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MONROV01429
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760073-0918
From: MONROVIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760210/aaaaaiih.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 37591
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: MULTILATERAL INFORMATION ON HOST GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PORG, PFOR, US, LI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006